REMARKS

The present invention is an apparatus selecting one of a plurality of service

providers for connection to a computer system through a network, a method of

selecting one of a plurality of service providers for connection to a computer system

through a network, a system, and a system for selecting one of a plurality of service

providers to be connected to a computer system through a network.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being

unpatentable over United States Patent 6,029,203 (Bhatia et al) in view of

United States Patent 6,243,754 (Guerin et al).

The Examiners reasons are as follows.

As per claims 1, 8 and 15, Bhatia et al teaches the invention substantially as
claimed. Bhatia teaches a system and method for selecting one of a plurality
of service providers which are available to a computer system for connection
to a network, the apparatus comprising (see col. 5, lines 60-62): at least one
database containing data regarding various parameters of the plurality of
service providers and service quality requirements for various service types
(see col. 5, lines 59 – col. 6, line 6).
However, Bhatia et al fails to teach a decision making unit connected to said
at least one database for selecting one of said plurality of service providers,
said selecting being made according to decision making criteria and data from
said at least one database.

Guerin teaches a decision making unit connected to said at least one
database for selecting one of said plurality of service providers, said selecting
being made according to decision making criteria and data from said at least
one database. Further, Guerin teaches a dynamic selection of network
providers. Furthermore, Guerin et al teaches one database for selecting one
of said plurality of service providers, said selecting being made according to
decision making criteria (see Guerin, col. 3, lines 20-23).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to incorporate a decision making unit for making said
selection based on decision making criteria as taught by Guerin et al in the
invention of Bhatia in order to determine the appropriate service provider to
use for communication data to a remote called site (see Guerin, col. 3, lines
12-14).

These grounds of rejection are traversed for the following reasons.

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Independent claim 1 recites:

An apparatus for selecting one of a plurality of service providers for .
connection to a computer system through a network, the apparatus
comprising:
at least one database containing data regarding parameters of each service
provider and service quality requirements for service types; and
a decision making unit connected to said at least one database for selecting
one of said plurality of service providers to be connected to said computer
system, said selecting being made according to decision making criteria and
said data from said at least one database, and wherein said decision making
unit includes a criteria unit for selecting criteria from multiple criteria to be
used in making a decision for selecting one of the service providers and a
decision making agent unit for making the decision based on said selected
criteria.

The Examiner correctly indicates that Bhatia et al fails to teach a decision making

unit connected to said at least one database for selecting one of said plurality

service providers. Moreover, claim 1 specifies that said decision making unit

includes a criteria unit for selecting criteria from multiple criteria to be used in making

a decision for selecting one of the service providers and a decision making agent for

making it decision based on said selected criteria. It is therefore seen that the at

least one database contains data regarding parameters of each of the service

providers and service quality requirements for service types with the selecting being

made according to decision making criteria and the stored data with the decision

making criteria being selected from multiple criteria. This subject matter has no

counterpart in Guerin et al.

Guerin et al teaches in col. 3, lines 6-29 that there is a selection by an

originating site based upon choices involving cost, quality of service to pre-

establish business contracts, etc. However, this disclosure does not suggest

the combination of the decision making unit including a criteria unit selecting a

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criteria selected from multiple criteria as recited in claim 1. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify the teachings of Bhatia et al in view of the teaching of Guerin et al as relied upon by the Examiner to arrive at the subject matter of claim 1.

Claim 7 further limits claim 1 in reciting wherein said at least one database includes a first database for storing service quality requirements for each service type and a second database for storing parameters regarding each provider, including billing data, selection priority data, resource condition data and resource information data. This subject matter corresponds to the database 16 of Figs. 1 and 2 and is not obvious from the broad general disclosure of column 3 of Guerin et al.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 6 further limit claim 1 in a manner which is not obvious from the proposed combination of Bhatia et al and Guerin et al.

Claims 8-12 are patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 13 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 7.

Claim 14 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 18 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect claim 1.

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Bhatia et al and Guerin and further in view of U.S. Patent

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No. 6,301,568 (Globuschutz). Globuschutz has been cited as teaching an integrated subscriber management system architecture supporting multiple services. However, Globuschutz's teaching regarding an integrated subscriber management system architecture supporting multiple services does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Claims 7 and 13 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Bhatia et al, Guerin et al, Globuschutz and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,519 (Peters et al). Peters et al has been cited for a first database storing pre-configured service quality requirements for each normal service type and a second database for storing parameters regarding each provider, including billing, data, selection priority data, resource condition data and resource basic information data. Peters et al teachings pertain to a no-reset option to a batch billing system which does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the proposed combination of Bhatia et al, Guerin et al and Globuschutz.

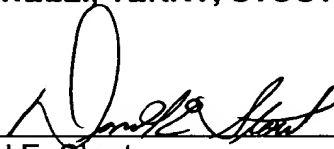Newly submitted claim 19 covers a service provider based upon the subject matter of claim 1.

Dependent claims 20, 22, 24 and 26 cover the user interface 12 or function thereof and dependent claims 21, 23 25 and 27 cover the scheduled item agent 40 or function thereof.

S.N. 09/671,517

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (0171.38874X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

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